

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

--6. (New) A method of inhibiting hair growth, which comprises topically administering to an affected area of a subject in need thereof a neutral endopeptidase inhibitor.

7. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said neutral endopeptidase inhibitor is not a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor.

8. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said neutral endopeptidase inhibitor is not a mercaptopropionamide compound.

9. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein said neutral endopeptidase inhibitor is not a mercaptopropionamide compound.

10. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said neutral endopeptidase inhibitor is an inhibitor of a neutral endopeptidase derived from a dermoepidermal fibroblast.

11. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said subject is a human.

12. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said neutral endopeptidase inhibitor is a phosphonic acid compound, or a derivative or salt thereof.--